

197 days.

In England the blackbuck breeds twice a year (Asdell loc. cit.). One fawn per year appears to be the rule among blackbuck (Schaller loc. cit.). According to Taibel (1937) one captive doe gave birth to 6 single fawns between June, 1931 and May, 1935 and another to 5 fawns between October, 1933 and February, 1937, less than a year elapsing between some births.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Shri D. N. Choudhury, I.F.S., Chief Conservator of Forests, Orissa, Cuttack and Shri S. N. Das, I.F.S. Conservator of Forests, Development Circle, Cuttack for the facilities provided.

VETERINARY ASST. SURGEON,  
NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,  
P.O. BARANG,  
DIST. CUTTACK.

L. N. ACHARJYO

WILD LIFE CONSERVATION OFFICER,  
OLD SECRETARIAT BUILDINGS,  
CUTTACK-1,  
December 17, 1973.

R. MISRA

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#### 5. OCCURRENCE OF THE BRAHMINY DUCK (*TADORNA FERRUGINEA*) IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT

A Brahminy Duck was shot by my son on 10-xi-1974 in the Big Tank at Udumalpet about 45 miles south of Coimbatore Town, from a small flock of eight ducks which were found in shallow water near the edge of the Tank.

This is the first authentic instance, of Brahminy Duck being sighted and shot in Coimbatore District. The duck weighed 3 lbs. It had no black ring round the neck.

About the edible qualities of this duck, opinions differ, true to the maxim "One man's meat is another man's poison." As the first bird seen and collected here and to ascertain the fact whether it is fit or unfit for the table, it was plucked and cooked (though I advised skinning). It was extremely fishy and uneatable. The bird had fed on green algae, its beak, mouth, throat and gullet were all full of green algae, emitting a bad odour. On 17-xi-1974 another duck was shot from the same Tank. This was also without the black necklace and weighed only 2½ lbs. It was skinned and cooked and was fair and quite eatable.

On 22-xi-1974 two more ducks weighing 1 Kg. each, were shot. These also had no black ring round the neck. One of these was skinned, cleaned and hung up for a night and then cooked the next morning. It was very good with no fishy odour at all.

18, PERUMAL KOIL STREET,  
FORT,  
COIMBATORE 641 001,  
December 18, 1974.

B. SUBBIAH PILLAI

#### 6. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE REDNECKED PHALAROPE (*PHALAROPUS LOBATUS*) ON INLAND WATERS IN BANGALORE

On 30th October 1973, during a session of wader photography from a hide, I noticed a phalarope in the company of wagtails, sandpipers, plovers and stints, feeding on marshy ground adjoining a nearby farm.

The bird was extremely wary and did not approach the hide as closely as did the other birds. It was identified as the Rednecked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* by its fine, blackish bill, dark striped mantle, and the black legs. The white wing-bar noticeable in flights was not seen due to the lack of all-round vision from my hide.

The bird, though it did not seem averse to feeding on the mud-bank with the other birds, seemed to prefer to feed in a small whirlpool of water caused by a waste-outlet pipe discharging into one of the small pools. The bird was unusually wary in relation with my past experience of the bird in Scandinavia, and did not come closer than thirty feet from my camera, permitting only a distant 'record' photograph.

The bird was again seen the following day, and four days later on 4th November, though never again after that date. During flight, the bird showed a wing pattern similar to that of a Little Stint, a dark upperpart with a noticeable wing bar.